

## OPINION 1069

CORRECTION OF ENTRY IN OFFICIAL LIST OF FAMILY-GROUP NAMES  
IN ZOOLOGY FOR NAME NUMBER 428 (THRAUPIDAE)

(1) The request to use the plenary powers to suppress all uses of the family-group name THRAUPIDAE (Aves) prior to its use by Wetmore & Miller, 1926, is refused.

(2) The entry for Name Number 428 on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology is hereby corrected to read:

THRAUPIDAE, Cabanis, 1847 (type-genus *Thraupis* Boie, 1826)  
(Class Aves).

## HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.) 1976

An application to correct the entry relating to the family name THRAUPIDAE on the Official List was first received from Dr. Kashin (Moscow) on 13 May 1971. It was sent to the printer on 8 July 1971 and was published on 1 May 1972 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* vol. 29: 28-29. It immediately followed an application by Dr George Steyskal (c/o U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.) for the correction of the spelling of a number of family-group names, in which it was said that the correct spelling of THRAUPIDAE was THRAUPIDIDAE. Dr Eisenmann, as Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological Congress, supported Dr Kashin's proposal but opposed Dr Steyskal's (*Bull.* vol. 29: 197). Dr Lemche (*Bull.* vol. 31: 171-172) proposed that the plenary powers should be used to suppress all uses of THRAUPIDAE prior to Wetmore & Miller, 1926 and was opposed by Dr Eisenmann (*Bull.* vol. 32: 131-133); Dr Lemche replied and the Secretary showed, on the same occasion, that correction of the entry concerned was necessary.

## DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 10 February 1976 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (76)4 for or against Dr Lemche's proposal to use the plenary powers in the present case. The following note was issued with the Voting Paper:

"This case began as an application by Dr Kashin (*Bull.* vol. 29: 28-29) for the author and date of the family-group name THRAUPIDAE (Official List No. 428, Opinion 852) to be corrected from "Wetmore & Miller, 1926" to "Cabanis, 1847". This action, and the placing of certain other names

involved on the Official Index, can be taken without the use of the plenary powers.

"In a paper published at the same time as Dr Kashin's application (*Bull.* vol. 29: 26-27), Dr Steyskal pointed out that the correct form of the name in question, under Article 29, is THRAUPIDIDAE. At that time it would have been necessary to use the plenary powers to justify the retention of the spelling THRAUPIDAE; but the Monaco Congress (see *Bull.* vol. 31: 81) added a new section d to Article 29 protecting family-group names that are in general use from change on account of an incorrectly formed stem. Dr Eisenmann (*Bull.* vol. 29: 197) supported Dr Kashin and opposed Dr Steyskal, and later (*Bull.* vol. 32: 131-3) showed that the spelling THRAUPIDAE is covered by the Monaco provision.

"Meanwhile Dr Lemche (*Bull.* vol. 31: 171) in the interests of the stability of Official List entries, opposed Dr Kashin and (*Bull.* vol. 32: 132) Dr Eisenmann. He asked that the plenary powers be used to suppress all uses of the name THRAUPIDAE before that of Wetmore & Miller, 1926. A suggestion by Dr Eisenmann led me to discover (*Bull.* vol. 32: 133) that the entry "THRAUPIDAE Wetmore & Miller, 1926" can only be protected if the plenary powers are further used to suppress the family-group names PROCNIATINAE, EUPHONIINAE, PHOENICOPHILINAE and PITYLINAE, all of Sclater, 1886, so far as present information goes. However, no formal proposition for the suppression of those names is at present before the Commission, and the possible use of the plenary powers to that effect has not been advertised.

"I am therefore calling for a vote on V.P. (76) 4 for a vote for or against the use of the plenary powers in the present case. This, being a procedural vote, can be carried by a simple majority; if carried, the case will have to be re-published and the possible use of the plenary powers advertised. But if the majority vote is against the use of the plenary powers, Dr Kashin's original proposals will be considered to have been approved"

At the close of the Voting Period on 10 May 1976, the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes - one (1): Habe

Negative Votes - seventeen (17) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Eisenmann, Mayr, Lemche, Mroczkowski, Vokes, Sabrosky, Willink, Tortonese, Corliss, Rohdendorf, Heppell, Bernardi, Nye, Dupuis, Bayer

Late Affirmative Votes: Alvarado, Brinck

Late Negative Votes: Ride, Kraus

Leave of Absence: Binder

Voting Papers not returned: Erben, Simpson, Starobogatov.

The following comments were sent in by members of the Commission with their Voting Papers:

Mayr: Correcting authorship to Cabanis, 1847, avoids all the difficulties correctly and perceptively pointed out by the Secretary.

*Lemche*: I do not want to cause trouble even though I still consider it important to protect the Official Lists.

*Vokes*: While I agree in principle with Dr Lemche on the need for maintaining the stability of the Official List, I cannot justify to myself the attitude that would say that we are unable to make a mistake.

*Bernardi*: Utilisons les pleins pouvoirs le moins souvent possible.

*Heppest*: I see no value in perpetuating errors on the Official Lists and believe that automatic correction without recourse to the plenary powers should be the rule wherever information received subsequent to publication of the Opinion so indicates.

#### ORIGINAL REFERENCE

The following is the original reference for the changed entry for Name Number 428 on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology: THRAUPINAE Cabanis, 1847, *Archiv Naturges.* Jahrg. 1847, vol. 1: 316.

#### CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (76) 4 were cast as set out above, that the proposal to use the plenary powers contained in that Voting Paper has been duly rejected, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1069.

R.V. MELVILLE  
Secretary  
*International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*  
London  
27 July 1976